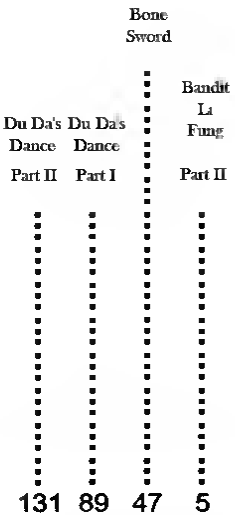
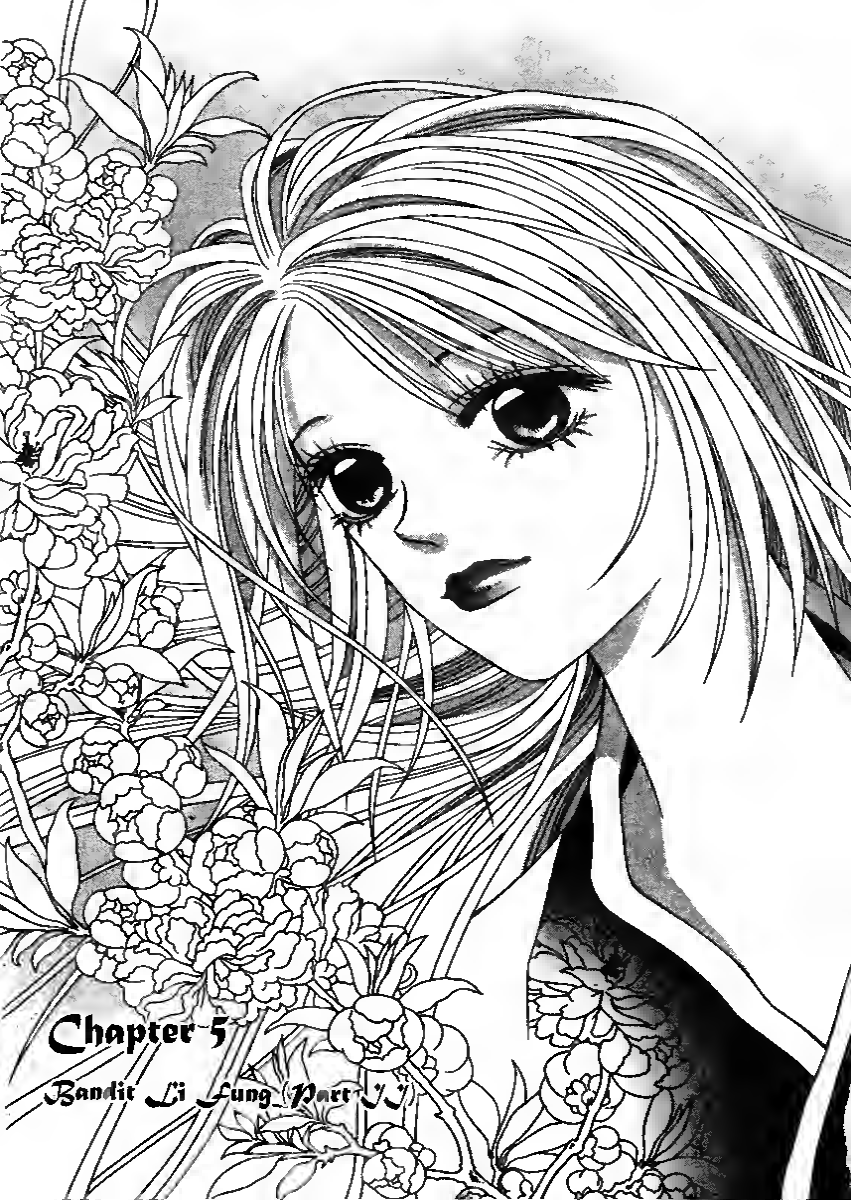
RAWR
Why won't you release the next chapter?!
Can I help you?
What can I do to help?
Fan Girl
It's not like YOU helped out any...
We don't have enough translators or editors
Cross-eyed attempt
Visit our website for details
Find us some translators and editors and you'll have your next chapter
http://www.aerandria.net

Xia Ke Xing
Volume
2
Jun Xiao

Xia Ke Xing

Chapters




Chapter 5
Bandit Li Fung (Part V)

SORRY...
XIA KE
SIGH...
YOU SCRATCHED MY BEAUTIFUL FACE!
LIU YAN, YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE THE IMPERIAL MARTIAL ARTS TEST
NO, I'M NOT
SORRY

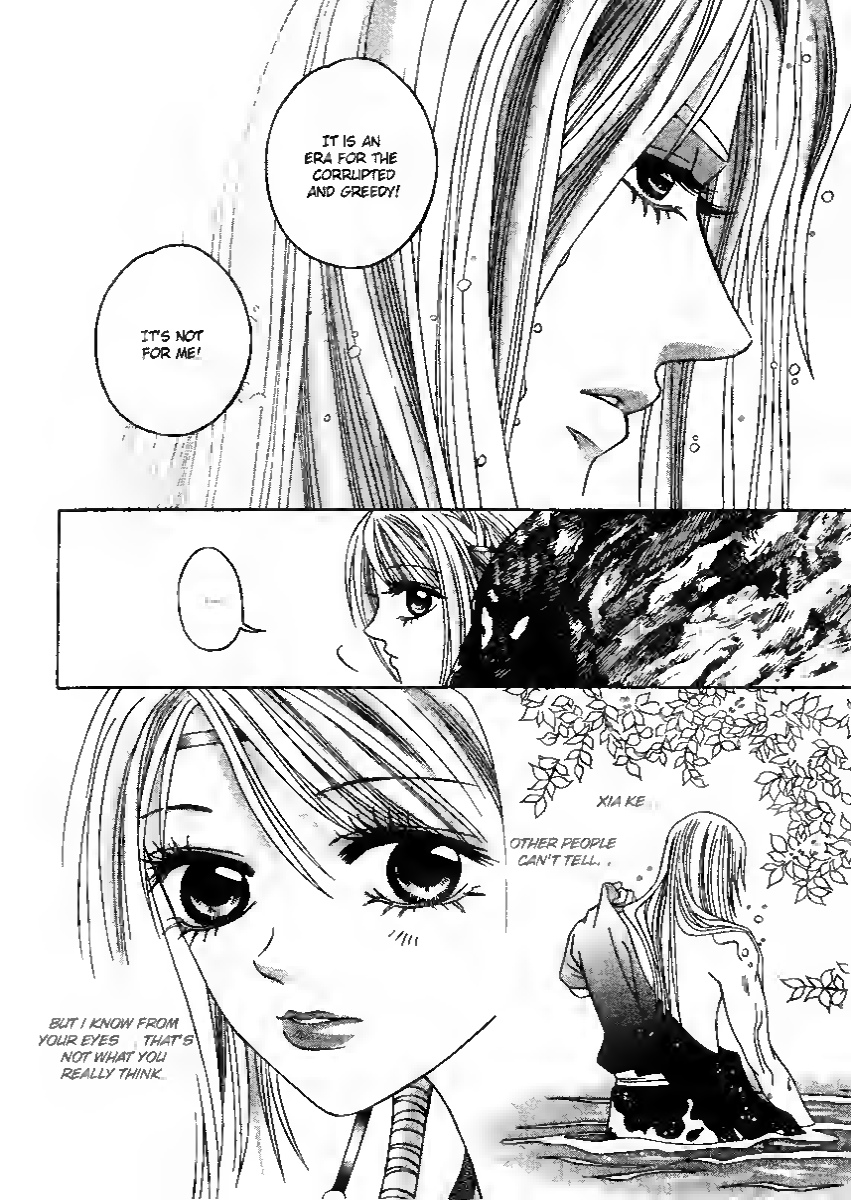
DON'T WORRY!
HE'S LIKE A PESKY COCK-ROACH THAT WON'T DIE AT ALL THAT EASILY!
THAT LI FUNG... WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
No reaction!
BECAUSE I AM A HERO!
I DON'T NEED TO PRETEND TO BE A HERO !!
HM...
LIKE LI FUNG HE WAS SO COOL BACK THERE!
TO BE HONEST, I WISH THAT I COULD HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY.
All I can do is use the iron Pen, what's the use of that?
3

What's a Shadow Person?
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?
THAT GUY FROM THE BLACK TIGER BANDITS SAID YOU WERE A SHADOW PERSON.
SHADOW PERSON... HM...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
I ONLY FOUND THAT STUPID IRON PEN IN THE STREETS!
Yu Min
MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE GOOD AT USING IT.

OF COURSE!
FOR A FEW YEARS WHEN I WAS HOMELESS, I LIVED IN A BACK ALLEY OF THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT.
I USED THIS IRON PEN ESPECIALLY TO FEND OFF PERVERTS!
HEY! LET ME ASK YOU,
SINCE YOU'RE A GUY ARE ALL MEN PERVERTS?
!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NO PEEKING! NO PEEKING!
Covers~
OUCH!
X**@@# SHE SAW IT!

WHY ARE YOU ASKING THIS?
BE-BECAUSE...
ALL THE MEN WHO WENT TO THE BROTHELS EVERY NIGHT WOULD SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE WOMEN THERE, SINGING,
PLAYING, DRINKING AND TALKING,
AS IF THE WORLD WERE AT PEACE!
...FU!
IF... EVERYONE LIVED THEIR LIVES IN FANTASY AND WONDERLAND, IT JUST ADDS MORE TO THIS CHAOTIC ERA!
XIA KE, SINCE YOU'RE A SCHOLAR,
DON'T YOU WANT TO TAKE THE IMPERIAL TESTS AND BECOME AN OFFICIAL?
Of course! Master you have to become an official!


IT IS AN ERA FOR THE CORRUPTED AND GREEDY!
IT'S NOT FOR ME!
...
XIA KE
OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T TELL...
BUT I KNOW FROM YOUR EYES THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU REALLY THINK...

YOU KNOW I'M ACTUALLY QUITE ENVIOUS OF YOU!
YOU GET TO TRAVEL WHEREVER YOU WANT AND HAVE FUN WHEREVER YOU GO!
You're freeking again!
THE TIMES ARE TOUGH RIGHT NOW.
IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT IF I JUST DON'T THINK OR CARE ABOUT IT I'D FEEL BETTER?
SOMETIMES
I GET REALLY SCARED WHEN I TRY TO THINK ABOUT WHO I AM

MY PAST...
SEEMS TO AFFECT MY FUTURE...
AND BRINGS ME TO A PLACE I DON'T WANT TO GO.

AH!
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE CARRYING ON YOUR BACK?
IT'S ALL OF MASTER'S NOTEBOOKS!
WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THEM?
THEY'RE NOTES ABOUT ALL THE PLACES THAT MASTER AND I WENT TO,
AND THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE THERE!
AND THERE'S ALSO A JOURNAL!
A JOURNAL?
YUP.

LET ME SEE!
EH..
I've always wanted to but I can't read!
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR MASTER WROTE AND WHAT HE REALLY THINKS?
WHAT?!
HUH? THIS ONE LOOKS KIND OF SPECIAL?
Especially wrinkled
GIVE IT TO ME!
AH

Ancient Chinese Writings
HUH... WHAT'S THIS PAINTING HERE?
SWOOSH

pak
Master! So-so-sorry
THAT WAS SCARY...
I UNDERSTAND NOW...
EVERYONE HAS A GOAL IN LIFE, DON'T THEY, SILI TONG?!
OUR CURRENT GOAL RIGHT NOW IS TO STEAL AND READ XIA KE'S JOURNAL!
YOU HAVE TO HELP ME! I CAN READ IT TO YOU, TOO!
THIS IS... ALL I CAN DO RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ARE THESE WEIRD DRAWINGS YOU'RE LOOKING AT?
HUH?
FAKE BANDIT! IT'S YOU!
WHY SO SURPRISED? HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SOMETHING NAUGHTY?

THE BLACK TIGER BANDITS WERE JUST A BUNCH OF LOWLY PUNKS!
YUP, AND I DIDN'T DIE!
LI FUNG! YOU CAME BACK!
HA! LIKE I NEED YOU TO TELL ME!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL STILL HAVE SOME HOPE OF TAKING THE IMPERIAL MARTIAL ARTS TEST!
I HAVE TO GO NOW!
JUST WAIT AND SEE ME BECOME A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL!
IT ONLY TAKES TWO DAYS ON HORSEBACK TO GET TO CHANG ZHOU FU FOR THE TEST!

THE LEADER FROM THE BLACK TIGER BANDITS WAS A TRUSTED OFFICIAL OF GENERAL YU MIN WHO IS LOYAL TO THE MING DYNASTY
IN THE END HE BECAME A BANDIT WHO STEALS AND TAKES FROM THE COMMON PEOPLE.
EVEN AFTER KNOWING THAT, DO YOU STILL WANT TO BECOME A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL?
HA!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

SISSY!
JUST GO AND FLIRT WITH YOUR WOMEN!
YOU!
CRACK
CRACK
AND MY MASTER DATING?
ARE YOU...
HEH HEH HEH...
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!
REALLY?

HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
HAA!
So tired
LOOKS RIGHT
LOOKS LEFT
WHERE IS CHANG ZHOU FU?!
WHERE THE HELL IS THIS PLACE?!
Niu Cun
(village)

WAH
WAH
Chang Zhou Fu

IT'S SO EXCITING THIS YEAR!
THAT YOUNG MAN FROM YI HING WAS BRILLIANT AT KUNG FU!
IF YOU HAVE A GOOD BACKGROUND, IT ISN'T THAT HARD TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL AND GET SOME GOODS FOR YOURSELF!
THAT'S REALLY GOOD!
BEING AN OFFICIAL IS THE BEST!

HA HA HA!
Test!
Test!
Test!
Test!
Test!
NOW, WHO WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE WERE WEAKLINGS?

Clean

Clean

Clean

Cries
Cries
Cries
Cries

IT'S OVER ALL READY!

WHY...
WHY...
WHY...
WHY!
HI!
WOW, IT'S YOU! LI FUNG!

YOU BASTARD! WHY ARE YOU HERE IN CHANG ZHOU FU?
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?!
!!
THREE DAYS AGO
YOU KNEW I HAD TO GO TO CHANG ZHOU FU TO TAKE THE TEST, SO WHEN I WENT THE WRONG DIRECTION WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

NOTE: HAU GUM (MONGOLIA) - MING DYNASTY'S MAIN ENEMY
IF OUR FUTURE GENERAL IS AN IDIOT WHO CAN'T TELL NORTH FROM SOUTH, IT'LL BE THE SADDEST THING!
HE WON'T EVEN BE SURE WHICH WAY IS THE MING DYNASTY, AND WHICH WAY IS HAU GUM.
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
SINCE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ, AND HAVE A PIG'S HEAD FOR A BRAIN,
CRACK!
DID YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE PASSED THE WAR TACTICS TEST?
He looks angry. As Ke, you should stop~

COME ON!
I'M GOING TO RUIN YOU!
SISSY!
OWNER, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS MONEY!
KICK
PUNCH
PUNCH
runs!
THOSE TWO...

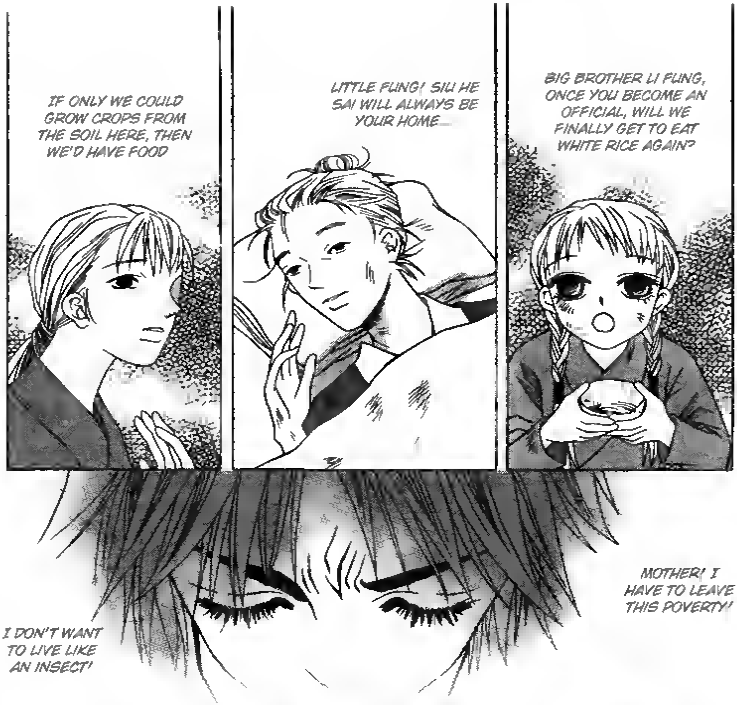
HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK THOSE TWO ARE ALIKE?
THAT STUPID EGG-HEAD?
HOW CAN THAT BE?
MY MASTER IS A TRUE GENTLEMAN
HE'S SMART, AND HANDSOME,
MANY
AND KNOWS HOW TO READ BOOKS!
HE'S ALSO GOING TO BECOME A GREAT OFFICIAL!
HIS FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

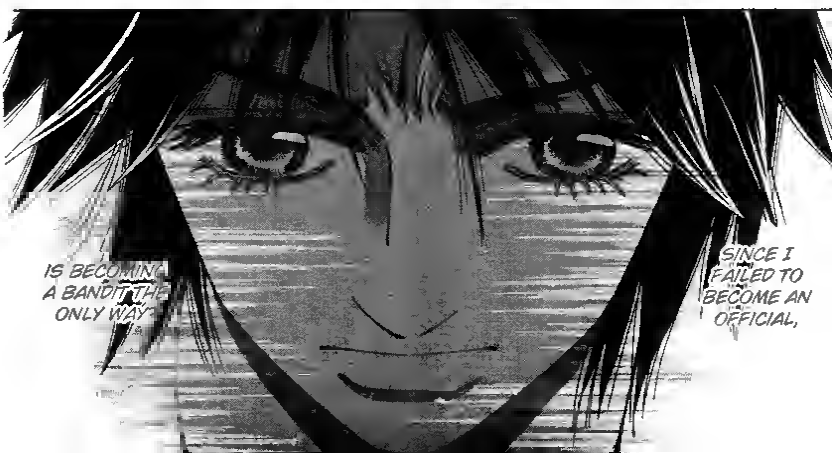
No!
No! No!
Alike!
Alike!
HMPH!
I WILL HAVE MY CHANCE!
BUT...
I THINK THE LOOK IN THEIR EYES ARE VERY SIMILAR...
HIS WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE PEOPLE REALLY INSPIRES ME!
I WILL BECOME A GREAT GENERAL LIKE GENERAL YU MIN!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING PEACE AND HARMONY TO OUR COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE!

HE'S GONE MAD!
IT'S MORE THAT HE'S A DUMB IDIOT!
XIA KE, ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LET HIM LEAVE LIKE THAT? DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD TELL HIM TO STAY WITH US?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT IDIOT!
BUT MY SENSES ARE TELLING ME THAT...
HE WILL BE A PERSON WHO WILL STAY BY YOUR SIDE TILL THE END. .
END?
WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

HEHE!
IT'S JUST A FEELING!
...
I DON'T HAVE ANY WEIRD HOBBIES
SO WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
THAT WAY!

GOD.
I'M STARVING!
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
...
THE NEXT IMPERIAL TESTS WON'T BE HELD UNTIL AFTER THREE YEARS...
AND DAO ZI, QU N ISN'T HERE ANYMORE...
HA!
AND YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP AWAY ALL THOSE GIRLS THAT WILL BE COMING AFTER ME!
HA HA!
ONCE YOU BECOME AN OFFICIAL, MY WHOLE FAMILY WILL BE DEPENDING ON YOU!
HA HA...


IF ONLY WE COULD GROW CROPS FROM THE SOIL HERE, THEN WE'D HAVE FOOD
LITTLE FUNG! SIU HE SAI WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR HOME...
BIG BROTHER LI FUNG, ONCE YOU BECOME AN OFFICIAL, WILL WE FINALLY GET TO EAT WHITE RICE AGAIN?
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE LIKE AN INSECT!
MOTHER! I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS POVERTY!


IS BECOMING A BANDIT THE ONLY WAY...
SINCE I FAILED TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL,

THAT FAKE XIA KE!
Grumble
Grumble
Grumble
Grumble
AH~ WHERE CAN I FIND SOMETHING TO EAT
SU
SU
SU
SU
SU
?!
MISSING PERSON
Female. Around 15 years old
Name: Yang Zhou Feng aka Liu Ye
If you know her whereabouts, you'll be rewarded with anything you want
e.g. You can become an official.

揚州興化人、
孔名顏兒、
身懷特殊技
藝、若裘仁人
吾士尋得、請
猫至應天府、
史尉得尉、
史官得官、
HUH?
THIS...
REALLY LOOKS LIKE ... THAT STUPID GIRL LIU YAN
COULD THIS...
HEY, YOUNG M...N...
DAMN, I CAN'T READ A SINGLE WORD THAT'S WRITTEN HERE. WHAT'S A HERO TO DO?
WHAT'S THAT WRITTEN ON THE BOTTOM? *X*@X@*

THAT NOTICE WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
DAMN... DO I HAVE TO TELL HER I CAN'T READ? NO, THAT WOULD BE HUMILIATING.
DO YOU KNOW HER?

NO... JUST THOUGHT SHE LOOKED FAMILIAR...
THEN...
WAS THIS TATTOO ON HER BODY?
YOUNG MAN,
THE NOTICE IS LOOKING FOR A GIRL WITH THIS TATTOO ON HER BODY.
!
THAT DRAWING IS OF HOW SHE LOOKED LIKE FOUR YEARS AGO...

ON THE NOTICE IT SAYS,
IF YOU KNOW HER WHEREABOUTS, YOU'LL BE REWARDED WITH ANYTHING YOU WANT E.G. YOU CAN BECOME AN OFFICIAL.
AN OFFICIAL?
YES, AN OFFICIAL IN THIS WORLD,
THE ONES WITH MONEY AND POWER CAN MAKE ANYTHING COME TRUE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

WHO ARE YOU?
AND WHO IS LOOKING FOR THIS GIRL?
TAKE THIS.
THIS IS...
IF YOU FIND THAT GIRL,
FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PAPER! AND YOU'LL FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT..

THIS IS FOR YOUR WORK!
PAK

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID SOULS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Xia ke Xing
Volume 02 Chapter 05

Lacaille :SCANNER
Kio :TRANSLATOR
sorsi :PROOFREADER
Lilith, Avy & Kimchan :EDITORS
craxx :QUALITY CHECK

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CHAPTER 6
THE HUMAN BONE SWORD.

I'm tired! Master~
My legs are tired!
We've been walking for quite a while haven't we, Yō ke?
I'm thirsty.
YOU'RE HOLDING A PICTURE LIKE YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
...
"Free as a Breeze~"
YOU OVER THERE! WHY DO YOU KEEP FOLLOWING US?!
WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING THE SAME WAY! MOVE ASIDE!

I CAN GIVE YOU A LIFT IF YOUR LEGS ARE TIRED! MY HORSE CAN'T COMPLAIN
STUPID GIRL!
MY NAME IS ANG YAN!
YOU SHOULD STOP BLOCKING MY WAY!
fei ~~~.
(I can,
too, complain!)
fei ~~~..
fei fei fei fei ~~~
(My legs are very)
(tired too!)
I haven't even mountained!
GIVE ME A LIFT TOO! MY LEGS ARE VERY TIRED!
YOU CAN ALL COME UP. I'M A GENEROUS MAN!

DO YOU WANT ME TO CARRY YOUR BAG?
OK!
SIS, I WANT TO GO AND PEE
IT'S SO TOUGH TO TRAVEL WITH A BUNCH OF IDIOTS!
I'LL GO AND ASK FOR DIRECTIONS!
NO, IT'S OK
DO YOU?
WHAT'S SO INTERESTING ABOUT XIAKE'S DIARY?
isn't it just gibberish!
XIAO TONG! DIDN'T WE AGREE TO STEAL A PEEK AT THE DIARY?
I can't! I'm a very loyal servant!
I GUESS... THERE'RE HIS SECRETS INSIDE!
HE ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE HE HAS A LOT ON HIS MIND

SECRET
"LITTLE BROTHER"
"THE NOTICE IS SEARCHING FOR A GIRL WITH THIS MARK ON HER."
MISS
ING
ANY PERSON WHO FINDS THIS GIRL WILL RECIEVE A REWARD BE IT MONEY OR A GOVERNMENTAL POSITION
BUT HOW AM I GOING TO ASK? THIS IS EVEN TOUGHER THAN KILLING SOMEONE!
I'll go and ask for some water from the shop.
Difficult question
I WANT TO SEARCH HER FOR THE MARK AND SEE IF I CAN CONFIRM WHETHER ANG YAN HAS THE SAME MARKING IF I CAN...

EXCUSE ME,
CAN THIS STRANGE-LOOKING ROCK BE FOUND AROUND HERE?
LITTLE BROTHER,
FROM MY OPINION, ALL ROCKS LOOK THE SAME TO ME
XIA LE, SORRY TO INTERRUPT!
CAN I ASK THE UNCLE FOR SOME-THING...
Disappointed
HMMM...?
?
THAT...
AREN'T THEY HUMAN BONES?

THEY CAN'T BE THE BONES OF A PIG, CAN THEY?
WHAT ELSE CAN THEY BE?
COVERS!
!
MAKING SWORDS TO EARN A LIVING - AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, HUMAN BONES WERE MUCH EASIER TO OBTAIN THAN PIG BONES!
THERE ARE LOADS OF BONES IN THE MASS BURIAL GROUND AT THE BACK!
OUR VILLAGE IS POOR
WE CAN'T PRODUCE ANY CROPS SO THE TAX OFFICER TOLD US TO MAKE WEAPONS FOR THE MILITARY INSTEAD.
BUT IN RECENT YEARS, A LOT OF BANDITS HAVE BEEN ROBBING US WE HAD TO TURN TO OUR FARMING TOOLS INTO WEAPONS TO EARN A LIVING.
SIR AND MADAM,
IT'S HOW WE MAKE OUR LIVING, PLEASE ACT AS IF YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!

UNCLE,
YOU CAN'T FORGE A GOOD SWORD WITH JUST THOSE FEW BONES!
YOU HAVE TO AVOID THE POISON MOON AND GHOSTLY MOON IN ORDER TO FORGE A GOOD SWORD
YOU CAN ONLY FORGE IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT OR IN EARLY DAWN WHERE YOU CAN OBSERVE THE COLOUR OF THE FLAME AND JUDGE THE TEMPERATURE
ONLY THEN CAN YOU FORGE A STRONG AND TOUGH BLADE

FORGE IT ON THE GROUND THEN LAY IT OUT IN THE SUN AND RAIN FOR TWO YEARS AND THEN PUT IT BACK IN THE FIRE AGAIN
IF YOU KEEP REPEATING THE CYCLE AND FINALLY EXPOSE THE BLADE
SWORDS FORGED UNDER SUCH CONDITION
ALLOW THE MIND AND BODY TO BECOME ONE. ITS MOVEMENT WILL BE SMOOTHER.
WHEN FIGHTING THE ENEMY, THE SWORD WILL MOVE WITH THE WEILDER'S THOUGHTS AND STRIKE A FATAL BLOW!
!

HMM?
I THINK I REMEMBER SOMETHING...
YAN, YOU KNOW HOW TO FORGE A SWORD?
SOMEONE DID TEACH ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG...
I THINK HE WAS...
YAN! IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU HAVE ANY CONNECTIONS TO THE YU WEN FAMILY OR NOT, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SAFETY...
ANG YAN, WHAT MORE DO YOU KNOW?
LITERATE, MARTIAL ARTIST, MEDICATION, SWORDMAKER...
IT WON'T BE A SURPRISE IF YOU'RE AN ASSASSIN TRAINED BY THE YU WEN FAMILY

IT'S BETTER THAT I DON'T TRY TO REMEMBER ANYTHING.
RIGHT?
HNNN...
I GOT IT.
HEY,
ARE YOU CRUEL OR JUST GUTLESS?
TCH!
YOU'VE BEEN IN THIS CIRCLE FOR QUITE A WHILE, DON'T YOU KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING INVOLVED WITH THE EAST COMPANY?
IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND THE FEELING OF BEING NOTHING AT ALL?

BEING NOTHING AT ALL...
HOW COULD I POSSIBLY NOT UNDERSTAND?
EH?
WHAT'S TAKING XIAO TONG?
DAMN! HE'S A BOY WHO DOESN'T BEHAVE LIKE A BOY SINCE HE'S GUTLESS AND LOVES TO CRY.
XIAO TONG!
LET'S SPLIT UP AND SEARCH!
You're soooo tommorrow!
THE FOREST BEHIND IS A MASS BURIAL AREA, NO ONE GOES THERE EXCEPT TO DIG OUT BONES.

MISS ANG!
LIE FENG! HAVE YOU FOUND HIM?
COULD HE HAVE BEEN CAUGHT BY SOME GHOST?
XIAO TONG!
OK.
I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOU.
NOT YET.
EH— THAT'S...
IN ORDER TO FULFILL MY DREAM, I NEED YOUR COOPERATION!
HOW AM I GOING TO ASK? I'LL SOUND LIKE A PERVERT IF I SAY IT...

I'D LIKE TO BORROW AND SEE SOMETHING THAT'S ON YOU!
OK!
WHAT THING IS THAT?
YOU... AREN'T YOU DECIDING A LITTLE TOO FAST? I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO TAKE OFF YOUR TOP...
EH..
WHAT IS IT?
EH THAT IS...
PLEASE DON'T TAKE OFFENSE, STUPID GIRL! I'M GOING TO SAY IT..
IT'S...
CHEST! YOUR CHEST!

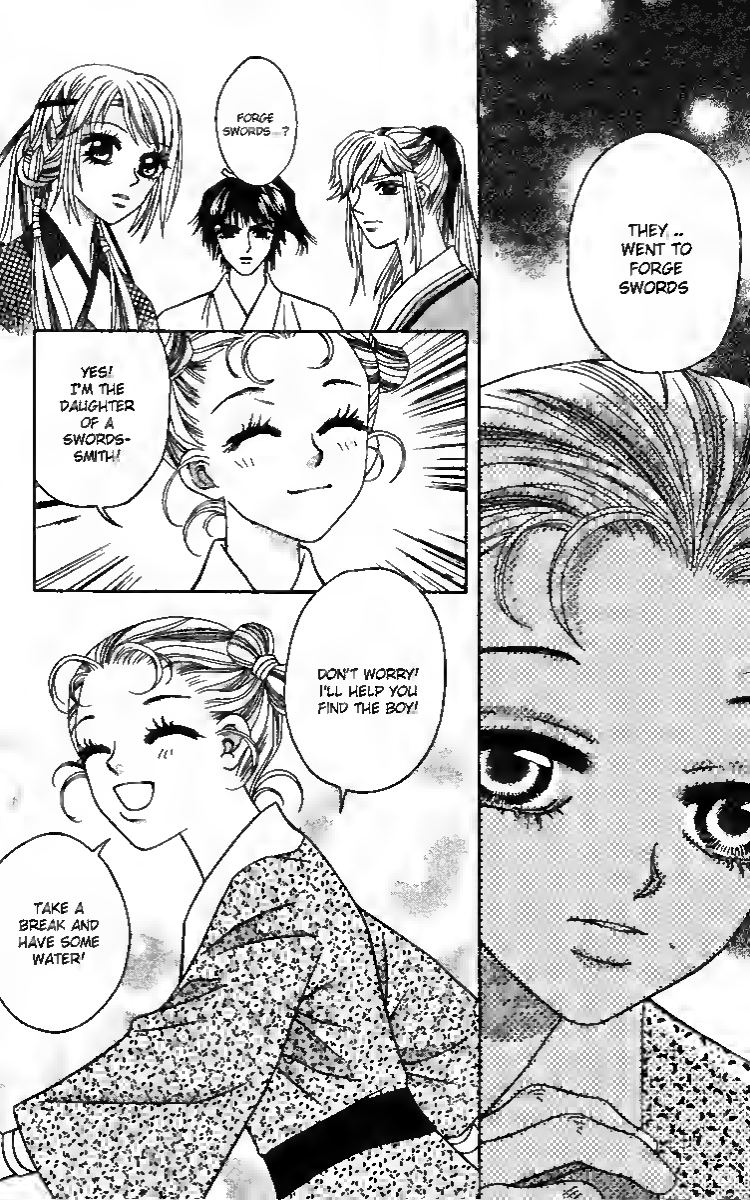
YOUR FACE IS VERY RED!
A RIGHTEOUS MAN IS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE A LADY'S BODY! MIGHT AS WELL, MIGHT AS WELL~
COME WITH ME!
Just grabs her to the person

EH?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FLIRTING WITH A GIRL AT A CEMETERY
WHAT!
FLIRT? WHAT KIND OF MAN DO YOU THINK I AM?
IT'S NOTHING. JUST AN IDIOTIC DISCIPLE OF A BANDIT!

POOR XIAO TONG IS WAITING FOR OUR RESCUE IN ONE OF THE HOLES!
THESE TWO WILL FORGET ABOUT SERIOUS MATTERS WHEN THEY'RE ARGUING
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
IS THAT XIAO TONG?
AH!

シャー
シャー
シャー
おくすり

I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE!
ARE THERE STILL PEOPLE STILL LIVING IN THIS VILLAGE?
I DIDN'T SEE ANY-ONE ELSE.
REALLY?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH XIAO TONG?
NO ONE ELSE JUST ME.
AH, THEN WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?


THEY .. WENT TO FORGE SWORDS
FORGE SWORDS ..?
YES! I'M THE DAUGHTER OF A SWORDS-SMITH!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL HELP YOU FIND THE BOY!
TAKE A BREAK AND HAVE SOME WATER!

CLICK
QUIET!
HM HMPH
HMM...

THE POISON MOON IS COMING SOON WE CAN'T FORGE ANY SWORDS
TONIGHT,
YOU'LL BE THE NINTEY-NINTH!
HMM, HMM!
FATHER SAID THAT...
THE FIRE MUST BE GREEN, THUS HUMAN BONES HAVE TO BE USED AS FIREWOOD

WITH THAT, A SWORD MADE OUT OF A GREEN FIRE WILL BE MORE INVINCIBLE!
YOU HAVE TO BE ANGRY, SCARED AND FULL OF HATE,
UNDER-STAND?
I... I...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HMM!
HMM! HMM! HMM!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
I WAS BROUGHT UP BY MY MASTER AND YOUNG MASTER...
MY PARENTS ALSO DIED OF HUNGER AND SICKNESS
YOU'RE AS PITIFUL AS ME!

GLASS OF WATER, GO TO HEAVEN.
GLASS OF WATER, MEET THE KING OF HADES.
GLASS OF WATER, HEAR MY COMMAND.
HA... HA...

THANKS!
HAVE SOME WATER!
...
PLEASE REST FOR A WHILE! I'LL HELP LOOK FOR YOUR FRIEND!

BIG SISTER...
BIG SISTER...
COME...
FOLLOW ME...
COME...

HONG!
HONG!
HONG!
BIG SISTER!
CAN YOU COME CLOSER AND HAVE A LOOK? HELP ME SEE IF THE FIRE HAS TURNED GREEN?

HONG!
HONG!
COME CLOSER
NUMBER...
NINETY-NINE!

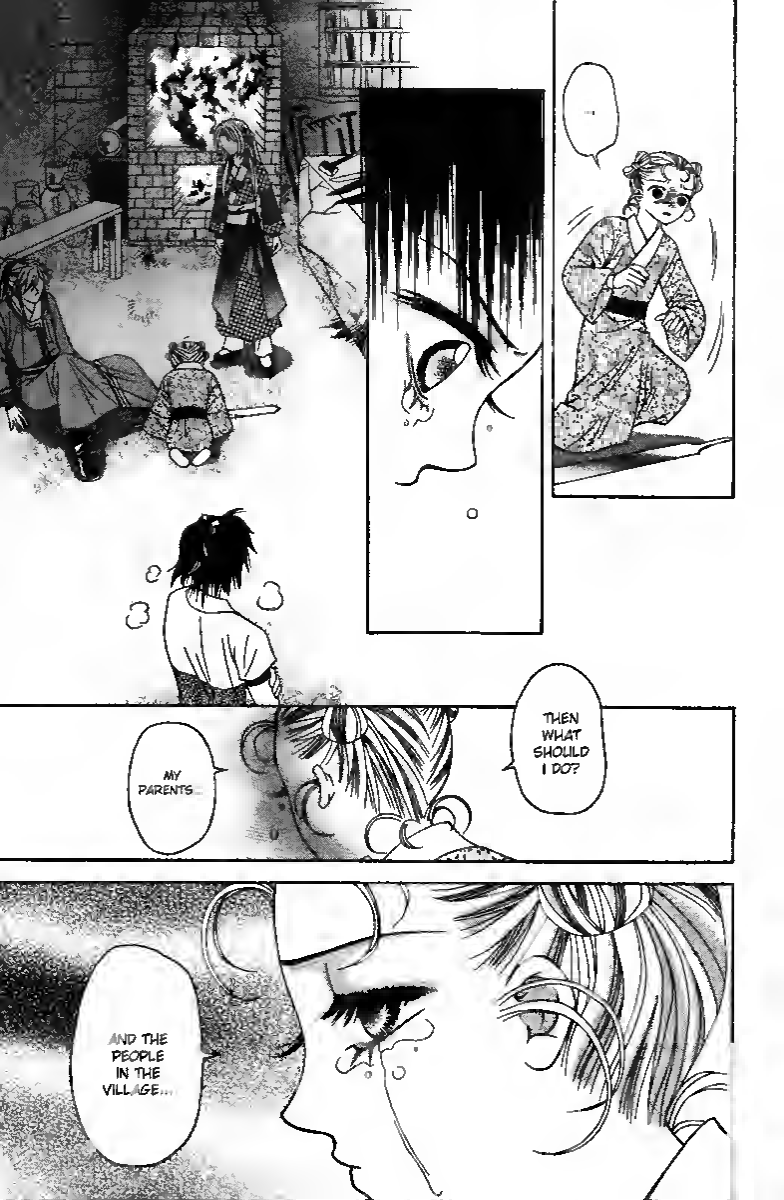
!
YOU GUYS...
MISSY...
DID YOU DRUG US? I'M FEELING LIGHT-HEADED AND MY LEGS ARE NUMB!
LUCKILY, I ONLY TOOK A SIP...
YAN-ER'S HAD THESE KINDS OF HERBS BEFORE YOU CAN'T FOOL HER.

MISSY
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
BANG!

HOW CAN I USE BRUTE STRENGTH AND PUNCH HER?
My face!
SHE'S A GIRL AFTER ALL!
HOW CAN YOU LOSE TO A LITTLE GIRL?
DAMN IT!
DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY FORGING SWORDS!
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
!

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
ARE YOU FORGING SWORDS ALONE?
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
HMM HMPH
XIAO TONG!
BAM!
SO MANY BARRELS OF HUMAN BONES!
MISSY! ARE YOU TRYING TO USE HUMAN'S LIVES TO FORGE A SWORD?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
SWOOSH!
CLANG!
YOU'RE ONLY TEN YEARS OLD, AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN'T EVEN HOLD RAW MATERIAL
HOW CAN YOU FORGE A SWORD WITH JUST YOUR STRENGTH?


...
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MY PARENTS...
AND THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE...

THEY COULDN'T PAY THE EXPENSIVE TAX AND WERE FORCED TO AN END
...THEY ALL WENT INTO THE FURNACE.
EVERYONE WAS THROWN INTO THE FURNACE EXCEPT ME.
THEY GAVE ME WHAT REMAINED OF THEIR FOOD AND TOLD ME NOT TO DIE.
"DON'T GO!"
"DON'T GO!"
ONLY I KNOW HOW TO FORGE A SWORD BECAUSE I AM THE DAUGHTER OF A SWORDSMITH.

TO FORGE A SWORD THAT KILLS ... TO KILL ALL THE TAX OFFICERS BEFORE THE FOOD DIMINISHES AND AVENGE EVERYONE.....

THAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LAST PERSON ALIVE

WHY DON'T WE TAKE HER ALONG WITH US?!
What?!
XU XIA KE!
SHE CAN BE XIAO TONG'S BRIDE WHEN THEY GROW UP
That's great!
MY MOTHER SHOULD AGREE TO ADOPT ANOTHER CHILD
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
come on! I'm really bored at home!
ABOUT YOUR REVENGE, WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT ANOTHER TIME!
!
MISSY, COME WITH US
你們…

THANK YOU!
YOU'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE!
LET'S GO!
LET'S NOT STAY HERE ANY LONGER!
XIAO TONG, I'M SORRY
Frightened
Frightened
HUA LEH!
HUA LEH!
I'VE FINALLY UNDESTOOD

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE FIRE EVEN GREENER,
THE MIND OF THE SWORD UNITED
THEN, THE PEOPLE WITH THE SAME BLOOD, FROM THE SAME VILLAGE ARE NEEDED
BROTHERS, SISTER!
PLEASE...

...REMEMBER TO TAKE ME ALONG!

REMEMBER TO...
TAKE ME ALONG.

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID TOOLS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Xia ke Xing

Volume 02 Chapter 06

Lacaille :SCANNER
shizuna-kew :TRANSLATOR
sorsi :PROOFREADER
Delightful & Kibouchi :EDITORS
craxx :QUALITY CHECK

mpletely different note. Happy Holidays everyone!

~craxx

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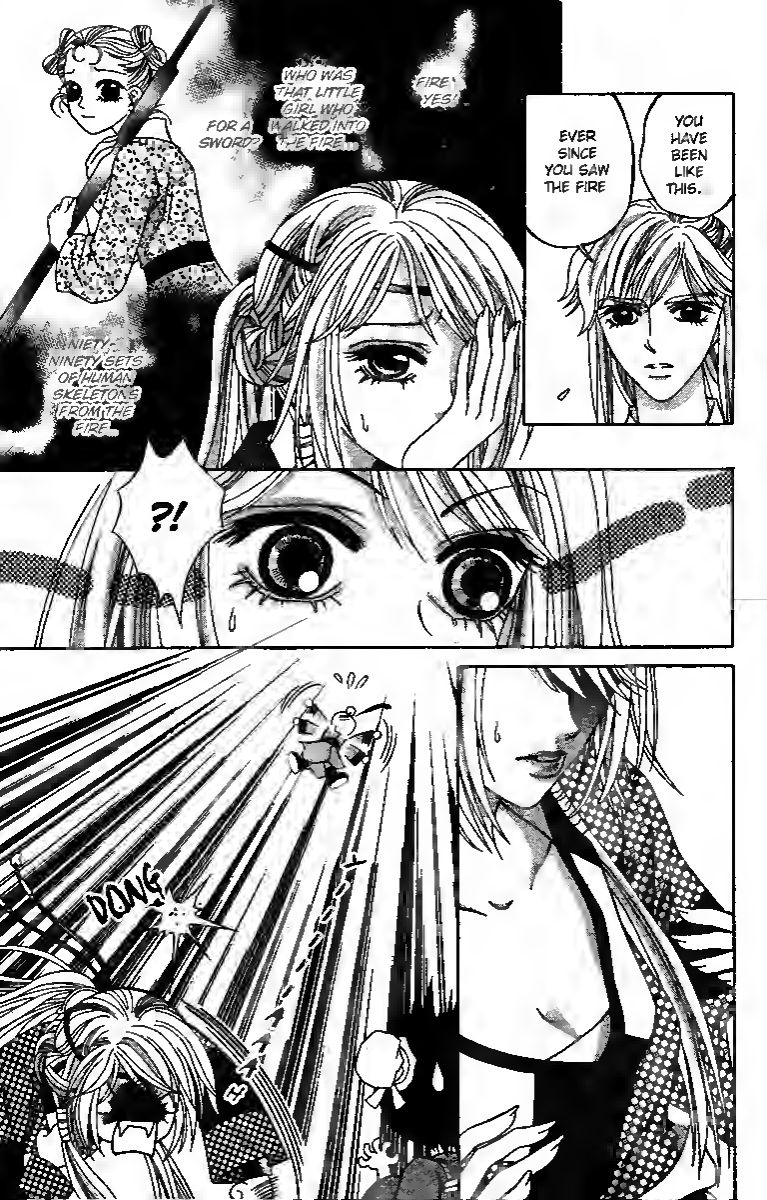
Chapter 7
Du Da's
Dance

I'M SCARED OF FIRE
LIU YAN...
THERE ARE MANY VOICES IN THE FIRE, CALLING OUT, SAYING MY NAME
LIU YAN...
WHO KEEPS CALLING MY NAME?
THE SMELL OF FIRE... IS A SMELL WITH HINTS OF FLESH AND BLOOD
LIU YAN...
LIU YAN...

LIU YAN...
LIU YAN...
LIU YAN...
LIU YAN!
LIU YAN!
LIU YAN!

LIU YAN!
YOUR WHOLE BODY IS COVERED IN COLD SWEAT...
ARE YOU OK?
AH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?


YOU HAVE BEEN LIKE THIS.
EVER SINCE YOU SAW THE FIRE
FIRE! YES!
WHO WAS THAT LITTLE GIRL WHO WALKED INTO THE FIRE...
FOR A SWORD?
NINETY-NINETY SETS OF HUMAN SKELETONS FROM THE FIRE.
?!
DONG
ドクドクドクドクドク

WHAT IS IT?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
?
WHAT'S THE SITUATION RGHT NOW?
SHE HIT HIM! SHE HIT HIM! MASTER WAS ONLY TRYING TO WIPE AWAY HER SWEAT!
LIU YAN.. YOU PUNCH AS HARD AS A BULL!
MASTER! I THINK IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE WEAKER THAN A CHICKEN! YOU SHOULD JUST GO BACK TO STUDYING... AND STOP MESSING AROUND HERE RISKING YOUR OWN SAFETY!

USELESS BASTARD!
HEY!
LIU YAN!
STUPID GIRL!
WHAT IS IT?
I SAW NOTHING...

HEY,
FAKE XIA KE!
what?
DID YOU SEE SOME-THING?
WHAT?
WHEN YOU WERE WIPING HER SWEAT,
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING SPECIAL ON HER CHEST?
CHE
!!!

HEY, NO NEED TO BE HASTY!
I'll just leave you two alone now!
take care!
HERE!
TAKE IT!
THE SWORD...
Totally useless against a girl!

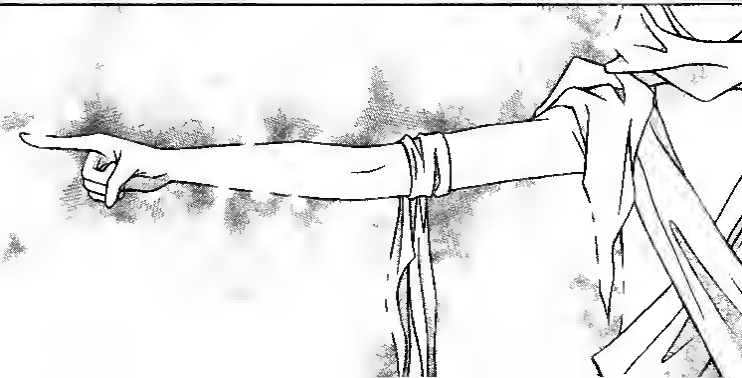
A BONE SWORD MADE FROM NINETY-NINE HUMAN SKELETONS
INSIDE THERE IS A LOT IS SADNESS AND PAIN
I DON'T USE SWORDS. THIS IS ALL I CAN DO NOW...
...FOR THAT LITTLE GIRL'S ONLY WISH.
A MYSTERIOUS LITTLE GIRL. SHE HAD SUCH A TERRIBLE LIFE, FULL OF SORROW
ALTHOUGH YOU WANTED TO TAKE HER AWAY.
WOULD YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE ANYTHING? SHE WAS QUITE STUBBORN.

IN THE PAST, SOMEONE SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.
SHE SAID I COULD CHANGE ANYTHING...
AND I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT TO BE TRUE.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET CLOSE TO THAT PERSON...
EVERYONE HAS THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD! EVEN THE GREAT HUNG MU WAS A BEGGAR... YOU'RE IN SOMEWHAT OF A BETTER POSITION AS YOU KNOW THE EIGHTEEN STANCES OF MARTIAL ARTS.
THE EIGHTEEN STANCES OF MARTIAL ARTS?
BUT YOU GUYS DON'T THINK I'M MORE OF A HELPLESS VILLAGE GIRL, DO YOU?
NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE!
An ordinary village girl used a knife she used to kill chickens... to venture into the world of martial arts. After different experiences, she under went lots of training, so not long after, she became as powerful as a bull. so not only can she kill snakes... she can kill tigs.

HUFF, HUFF, HUFF!
You said it yourself!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME AN AIRHEADED VILLAGE GIRL?
I'LL FIND THAT MARIAL ARTS MASTER, AND THEN HAVE HIM TAKE ME IN AS A DISCIPLE!
I'LL DEFINITELY REMEMBER WHO I AM!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!
DETER
MINED!
LITTLE GIRL... YOU CAN HELP ME!

DING..
DING..
DING..
!
THIS IS BAD... I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW!
DID YOU HEAR ANY STRANGE SOUNDS?
I THINK IT WAS A BELL
NO.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?

林氏之



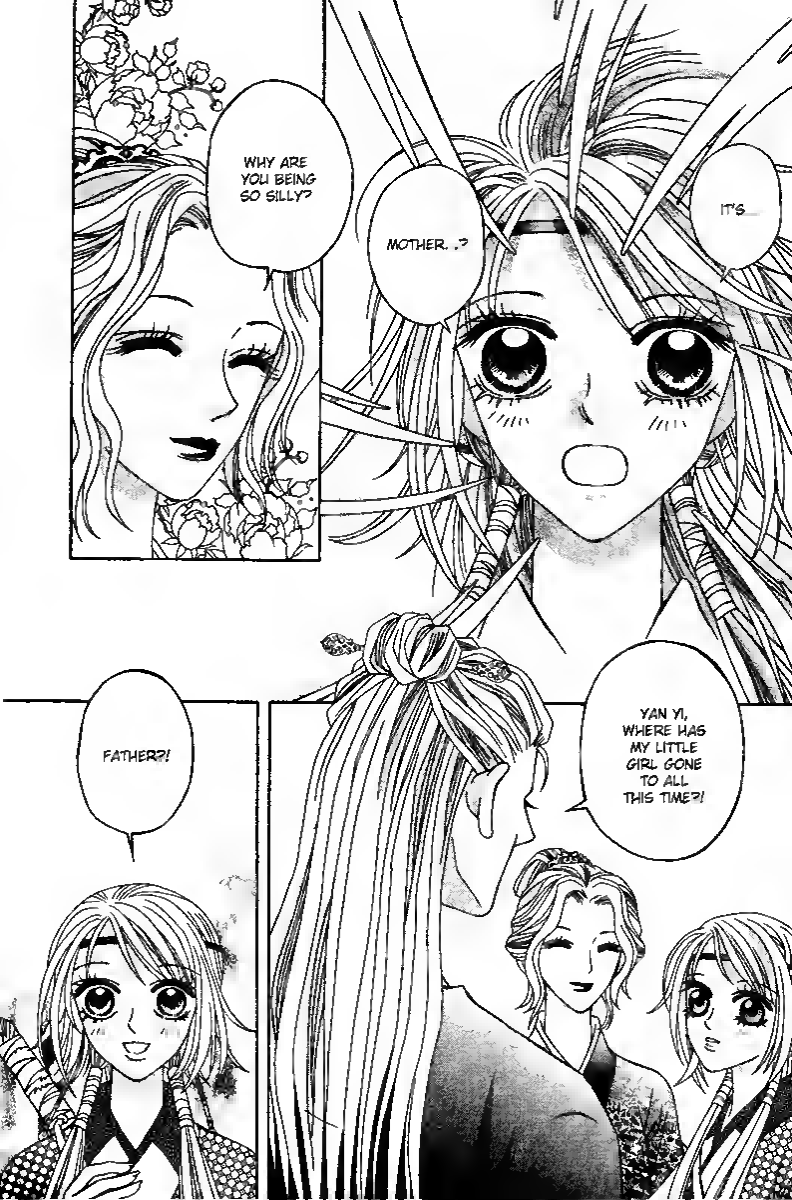
WHAT'S HE POINTING TO?
WHAT'S HE TRYING TO SAY?
THE STRANGE MAN IS GIVING US DIRECTIONS TO GO SOMEWHERE?
MASTER! FORGET ABOUT HIM! LET'S JUST HURRY AND LEAVE NOW. I'M SURE NO ONE ELSE IS CURIOUS! CURIOSITY WILL ONLY LEAD TO TROUBLE!
CURIOUS CURIOUS CURIOUS!!!
MASTER! WAIT FOR ME!
He's the only one that isn't curious.

HUFF!
HE MOVES REALLY FAST!
STRANGE! WHY CAN'T WE CATCH UP?!

THIS LONG SWORD IS SLOWING ME DOWN HERE IN THIS BAMBOO FOREST!
HA!
LI FUNG!
XIA KE!
PAK!
WAIT FOR

WHERE AE XIA KE AND LI FUNG?
WHERE DID THEY RUN OFF TO?
*SPELL
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME-THING IN THE WIND..
SMALL WHISPERS OF POETRY...
OH!
LOOK, SOMEONE CAME!

IT'S YAN YI.
AH!
...!
WHERE DID YOU GO? WE'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!


WHY ARE YOU BEING SO SILLY?
MOTHER..?
IT'S...
YAN YI, WHERE HAS MY LITTLE GIRL GONE TO ALL THIS TIME?!
FATHER?!

YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR SO LONG... DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?
EH...
I WAS WITH...
WITH... WITH...
HUH? WHOM WAS I WITH ALL THIS TIME...?
WHO WAS IT? I REMEMBER THEM PROTECTING ME ALL THIS TIME... BUT NOW...

YOU WON'T BE ALONE
WHO?
WHO?
IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU? I CAN HELP!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! WHAT MATTER IS YOU'RE BACK. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT OTHER THINGS LATER!
WE REALLY NEED YOU! DON'T EVER JUST LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING!
LET'S GO INSIDE! I'VE ORDERED THE SERVANTS TO CLEAN YOU ROOM AND KEEP IT THE SAME WAY IT WAS SINCE YOU LEFT!

HOW STRANGE!
WEREN'T THEY RIGHT BEHIND ME JUST A SECOND AGO?
WHY HAVE THEY ALL DISAPPEARED WITHIN A BLINK OF AN EYE?
WHEN DID I GET OUT OF THE FOREST?
NO
*SPELL

ISN'T THIS NAN YANG QUI?
...?
MY HOUSE?!

who's at the door?
AH!
IT'S HONG ZU!
YOU CAME BACK!
MOTHER!
I KNEW I WASN'T DREAMING!
HONG ZU REALLY CAME BACK!
MOTHER
It hurts! That means I'm not dreaming!

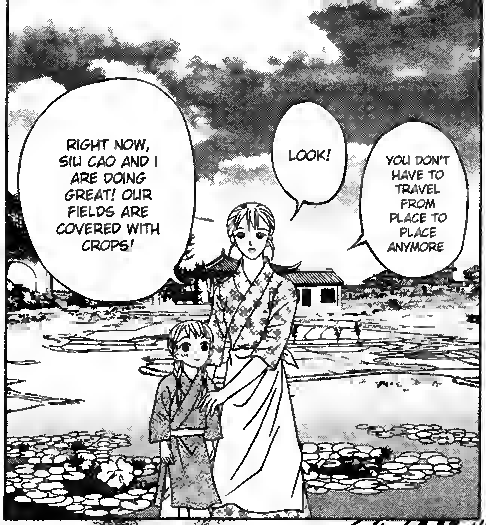
...
LOOK AT HOW YOU'VE GROWN!
FIRST OF ALL, GO AND TAKE A NICE BATH AND THEN WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED HAVE A BOWEL OF YOUR FAVORITE SOUP.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT TOMORROW! NO HURRY! NO HURRY!
MOTHER KNOWS YOU HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT AFTER YOUR TRAVELS
IT'S NO DOUBT THAT THIS IS MY HOUSE
BUT WHY DO I FEEL SO STRANGE?
MY HEAD IS STUFFED LIKE A BUN RIGHT NOW. WHY CAN'T I THINK CLEARLY?

NO.
AFTER I HEARD THAT STRANGE VOICE, MY BRAIN HAS BEEN LIKE THIS...
Looks left Look right
THIS WEIRD, PATTERNED CLOTHING ISN'T MINE
WHERE DID MOTHER BUY THIS KIND OF CLOTHING FROM?
STUPID! THIS IS MY HOME! WHY AM I ACTING SO SUSPI-CIOUSLY?

!
IF THIS REALLY IS MY HOUSE...
WHY ISN'T THERE ANYONE ELSE HERE, EXCEPT FOR MOTHER?
SOMETHING'S WRONG!

*SIGH
BIG BROTHER LI FUNG!
IT'S BIG BROTHER LI FUNG!
BIG BROTHER LI FUNG! YOU CAME BACK!

FUNG YI!
NOT ONLY AM I HERE, MOTHER IS, TOO!
SIU CAO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SIGH. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO IMPULSIVE. I WAS SO WORRIED YOU WOULD END UP DEAD IN THE STREETS!
MOTHER...
HURRY AND LET MOTHER TAKE A LOOK AT YOU! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR FIVE YEARS, IT'S SO WIERD COMING HOME ALL OF A SUDDEN!
MOTHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?


RIGHT NOW, SIU CAO AND I ARE DOING GREAT! OUR FIELDS ARE COVERED WITH CROPS!
LOOK!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FROM PLACE TO PLACE ANYMORE

DID YOU FORGET YOU TOLD US TO LEAVE XIAO HU QIAN ON THE DAY THAT YOU LEFT?
And this place was where you left her?

THEY SAID
THIS ISN'T RIGHT. DIDN'T SOMEONE SAY SO BEFORE?
FLING YI, COME WITH ME!
BUT DURING THE DROUGHT, WEREN'T IRON MILLS BUILT ON THE FIELDS TO FORGE SWORDS?

LOOK HERE
IT'S YOUR FATHER'S NEW GRAVE, WHERE HE'S PROPERLY BURIED
FATHER
NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK,
WE'RE A COMPLETE FAMILY AGAIN! YOUR FATHER MUST BE HAPPILY SMILING DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS!

THE REASON WHY I LEFT HOME IN THE FIRST PLACE
DOESN'T SEEM TO EXIST ANYMORE
WHY DON'T I JUST SETTLE DOWN...?
THIS IS GREAT! BIG BROTHER LIU FUNG FINALLY CAME HOME! I'M GOING TO GO TIDY UP BIG BROTHER'S ROOM FOR HIM.
MOTHER, SIU CAO!
I FEEL SO GLAD, NOW THAT I KNOW YOU TWO HAVE BEEN LIVING SO WELL!
OH, I THINK I SHOULD GO AND PREPARE SOME SPECIAL DISHES FOR DINNER.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A FARMER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. THE OATH I MADE WHEN I LEFT STILL HASN'T CHANGED!

I WON'T EVER RETURN WITH OUT ACCOMPLISHING THAT GOAL!
I WANT TO BECOME AN IMPERIAL OFFICAL!
...?
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT SOME STUPID OATH!
BROTHER! I DON'T WANT THAT!
SIU CAO, WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN FIVE YEARS, RIGHT?
EH
THEN WHY .
DO YOU STILL LOOK LIKE YOU'RE STILL NINE YEARS OLD?
...

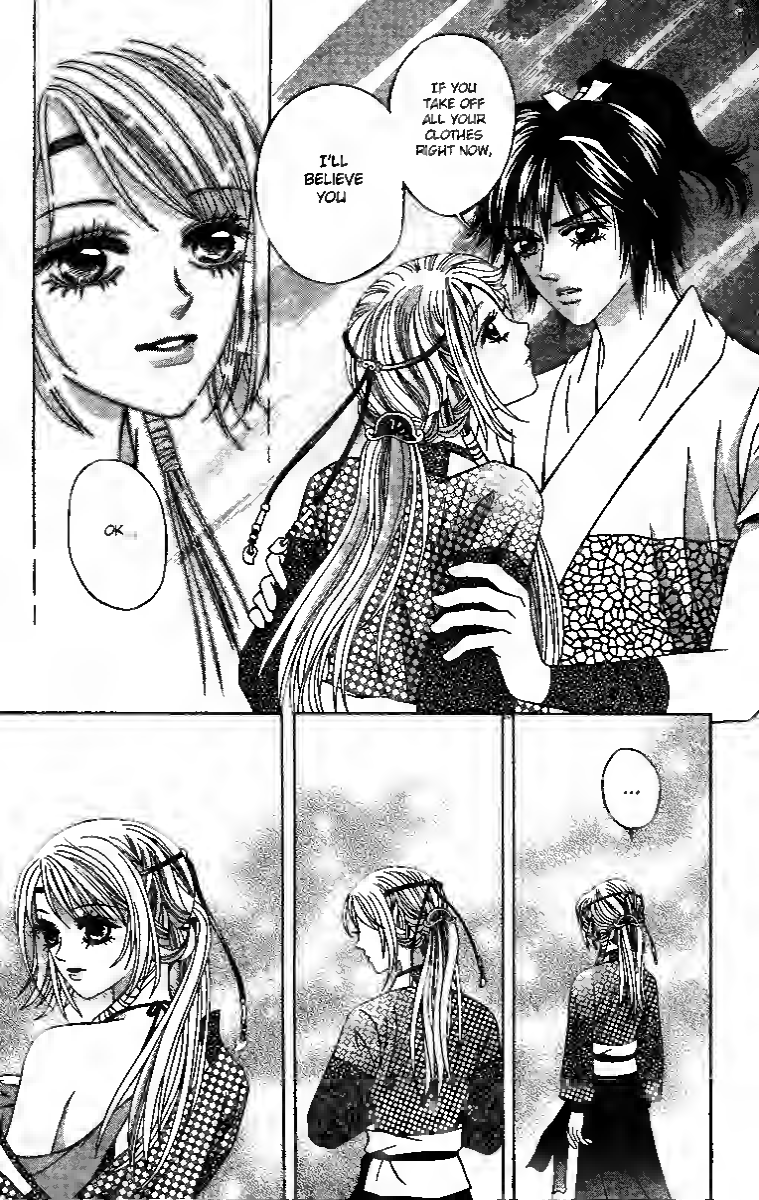
OH, YEAH! I ALMOST FORGOT TO TELL BIG BROTHER THAT,
BEFORE YOU CAME, A BIG SISTER CAME LOOKING FOR YOU!
HI!
LI FUNG!
LIU YAN!
My little Fung is all grown up now!
YOU HAVE A NICE HOME!

THAT'S GREAT! I DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO STAY RIGHT NOW!
FUNG YI, WHY DON'T YOU INVITE YOUR FRIEND TO STAY FOR A FEW DAYS?
WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH A BLANK-LOOKING EXPRESSION?
...
SO, SHE REALLY IS A HOMELESS GIRL...
FUNG YI, YOU AREN'T YOUNG ANY-MORE
SINCE YOU'VE GOT SUCH A NICE GIRL-FRIEND, DON'T GO BULLYING HER!
MOTHER!
WHAT NON-SENSE ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?!

LI FUNG!
DO YOU HATE ME?
WHAT?
HURRY UP AND ANSWER ME!
IF YOU RE LLY DON'T LIKE ME.
THEN I'LL LEAVE RIGHT NOW!

I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE.
MOTHER!
STUPID GIRL!
WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO STRANGE? ARE YOU SICK?
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME A STUPID GIRL?
I'M NOT STUPID AT ALL!
I KNOW YOU'RE A RESPONSIBLE, CAPABLE, AND RIGHTEOUS...
REAL MAN FROM THE INSIDE OUT!
She said. She said.

AND THAT'S WHY I LIKE YOU!
WAIT...
...


IF YOU TAKE OFF ALL YOUR CLOTHES RIGHT NOW,
I'LL BELIEVE YOU
OK
...

WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT TO SEE?

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID SOULS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Xia ke Xing

Volume 02 Chapter 07

Lacaille :SCANNER
Kio :TRANSLATOR
sorsi :PROOFREADER
ivy, Kibouchi & Eruname :EDITORS
craxx :QUALITY CHECK

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Chapter 8
Du Da's Dance
(part 2)

YAN YI!
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER WHAT I HAVE TAUGHT YOU?
OF COURSE!
MEDICINE AND FORTUNE, IRON PEN, SWORD FENCING, WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT TO TEST ME ON?
HAHA.
FATHER ISN'T GOING TO TEST.
OF ALL MY CHILDREN, YOU ARE MY FAVORITE!

LISTEN, MY YAN YI.
NOW IT'S TIME TO STOP PLAYING WITH THESE THINGS THAT BOYS PLAY WITH!
OH MY!
WHAT A WOMAN NEEDS IS TO KNOW HOW TO COOK A GOOD MEAL, FIX YOUR APPEARANCES, AND GET NEAR THAT PERSON.
NOTHING ELSE LIKE MARTIAL ARTS. THESE SKILLS WON'T MATTER ANYMORE!
...
HUH? WHO IS THAT PERSON?
IS HE THE PERSON I LIKE?

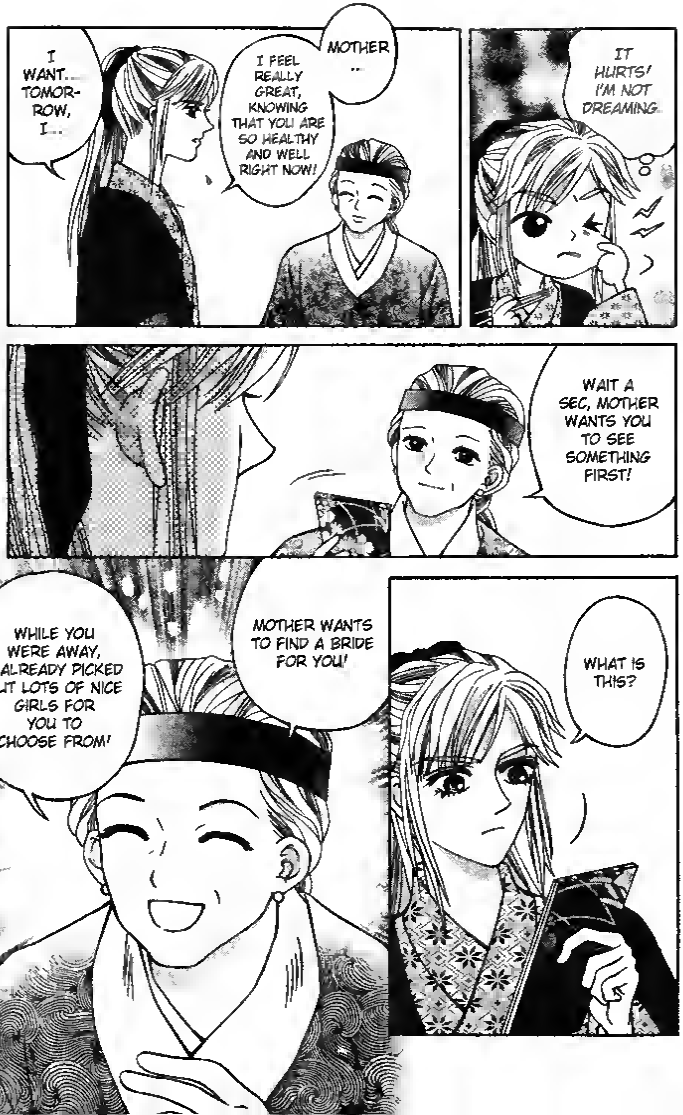
YAN YI,
THIS ISSUE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN LOVE.
THEN... I WON'T GET TO BE WITH SOMEONE I LOVE?
COULD IT BE THAT THERE IS SOMEONE THAT YOU LIKE?
NO.
I WAS JUST ASKING...

WHICH FAMILY'S NOBLE SON IS HE?
NO... THERE ISN'T ANY!
IF YAN YI SAYS THERE ISN'T ANY,
THEN THERE ISN'T!
IS THERE REALLY NONE? BUT... THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMEONE IN MY MIND, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO
YAN YI,
LISTEN CAREFULLY!

BEFORE YOU FINISH YOUR MISSION,
YOU CAN NOT FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYONE.
MISSION?
YAN YI, OPEN THIS AND READ IT!

...
THIS IS...?
YAN YI, SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG, I HAVE BEEN TEACHING YOU DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES AND SKILLS WITH THE SWORD, TRAINING YOU, LEAVING YOU BY YOURSELF
BUT I DID THIS FOR A REASON
YOU LEARNED ALL THOSE THINGS JUST FOR THIS MISSION
IT IS TO HAVE THE PERSON, WRITTEN ON THAT PIECE OF PAPER, DIE BY YOUR SWORD.

THESE ARE ALL YOUR FAVORITE DISHES.
HURRY UP AND EAT, DON'T LET IT GET COLD, HONG ZU!
LET'S SEE!
THIS FEELING IS SO STRANGE, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS IT IN WORDS
ALL OF THIS DOESN'T FEEL REAL
IT FEELS LIKE I'M IN A DREAM, EATING MY FAVORITE FOODS, WITHOUT ANY SENSE OF TASTE
HM...


I WANT... TOMOR-ROW, I...
I FEEL REALLY GREAT, KNOWING THAT YOU ARE SO HEALTHY AND WELL RIGHT NOW!
MOTHER ..
IT HURTS! I'M NOT DREAMING.
WAIT A SEC, MOTHER WANTS YOU TO SEE SOMETHING FIRST!
WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, I ALREADY PICKED OUT LOTS OF NICE GIRLS FOR YOU TO CHOOSE FROM!
MOTHER WANTS TO FIND A BRIDE FOR YOU!
WHAT IS THIS?

LEAVING ME AT HOME ALL BY MYSELF, AND GOING OFF TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT OUTSIDE!
HONG ZU, IS THIS HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TALK TO YOUR MOTHER?
MOTHER!
THERE ARE STILL MANY PLACES THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN TO! I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED YET!
IT'S VERY LONELY IN THIS BIG EMPTY HOUSE.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I WANT GRAND-CHILD?!
YES!
CAN'T YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR MOTHER FOR ONCE? I'M GETTING OLD NOW, AND YOUR FATHER HAS PASSED AWAY.
MOTHER!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FACE HIM, KNOWING THAT I DIDN'T RAISE YOU PROPERLY!
IF YOUR FATHER FROM HEAVEN ABOVE SEES YOU NOW, NOT YET AN OFFICIAL AND NOT WANTING TO GET MARRIED,

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE XU FAMILY, WE HAVE BEEN NAMED BY THE PEOPLE AS CORRUPTED IMPERIAL OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF THE IMPERIAL TESTS
WE ACHIEVED HIGH RANKS WITH OUR STUDIES. HOWEVER, SINCE OUR ANCESTOR BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL DUE TO OFFICE, HE MADE AN OATH...
...FOR THE XU FAMILY TO NEVER GO INTO THE FIELD OF IMPERIAL OFFICIALS AGAIN,
KNOWING IT AS A PLACE OF GOSSIP AND BETRAYAL
...AND MOTHER KNOWS ABOUT THAT...
...
IS THERE ANYONE THAT YOU'D LIKE?
NOPE!
IT'S HER, RIGHT?
HA!
MOTHER KNOWS THAT THERE IS ALREADY A GIRL THAT YOU LIKE!

HONG ZU!
LIU YAN!
WHY ARE YOU SO SURPRISED?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I HAVE BEEN HOME THE WHOLE TIME WAITING FOR YOU TO COME BACK!
WAIT... MY BRAIN IS IN A TOTAL MESS RIGHT NOW...

ALSO, MOTHER ISN'T ACTING LIKE HER USUAL SELF.
WHY—
FIRST... UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES, I SOMEHOW LEFT THE BAMBOO FOREST...
AND THEN SOMEHOW I MADE IT BACK HOME,
EVEN THOUGH I AM WITH MOTHER, THE WHOLE HOUSE IS EMPTY, AND EVERYONE ELSE IS GONE...
Why is he looking at me like that?
AND LIU YAN?
GIVE ME INK AND A BRUSH!
PAINT PAINT!
AND ALL OF MY USUAL FAVORITE FOODS...
DON'T HAVE ANY TASTE WHEN I EAT THEM.

WHICH ONE IS MORE HANDSOME?
LIU YAN!
Our Hong Zu doesn't have a lot of talent in painting.
ISN'T THE ANSWER OBVIOUS?! IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE BAD EYESIGHT!
Ah ha!
WHICH ONE?

YOU
YOU TWO.
WHO ARE YOU?

LI FUNG?!
Tears!

Rip!

!
XU XIA KE!
LI FUNG!

Master!
Master!
WHERE ARE LIU YAN AND SIU TONG?
WHERE DID YOU GO?
WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU GUYS WERE GONE IN AN INSTANT! I WAS ALMOST SCARED TO DEATH!
I HAVE BEEN RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES THE WHOLE TIME.
WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO? HAVE YOU SEEN LIU YAN?
THERE'S NO NEED TO LOOK ANY MORE! QUICKLY GATHER SOME BRANCHES!

Crackle!
Crackle!
NOW THROW IN THESE WET LEAVES!
MASTER, ARE YOU TRYING TO BURN DOWN THIS FOREST?
LIU YAN HAS A FEAR OF FIRE

Xiu!
COUGH COUGH!
COUGH COUGH COUGH!
LIU YAN!
COUGH COUGH COUGH
XIA KE, LI FUNG... WHERE DID YOU TWO GO?

WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?
Siu Tong give me my notebook now!
Yes!
EH!
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I JUST SAW MY MOTHER AND SIU CAO...
LIVING A LIFE IN PEACE AND HAPPI-NESS...
IS THAT IT?

WHAT DID YOU SEE LIU YAN DO?
DON'T CALL ME STUPID, GIRL!
WELL.. AND I SAW THIS STUPID GIRL..
NO-THING SPECIAL!
NOTHING SPECIAL!
I...
DID IT BY KILLING YOU.
Blushing? He's so Lying!
THEN HOW DID YOU GET THERE?

WHAT HAVE I D
DONE TO YOU
WHY DID YOU HAVE
TO KILL ME!!
ILLU-
SIONS..
I DIDN'T
REALLY
KILL YOU!
AREN'T
YOU ALIVE
STANDING RIGHT
THERE
IN FRONT
OF ME?
HOLD
ON!
THAT
WAS ONLY
BECAUSE,
BECAUSE...

!
ILLU-SIONS?
UM ..
I SAW...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, LIU YAN? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I SAW ..
I SAW ..
I...
SAW .
I CAN'T REMEM-BER
COULD IT BE BECAUSE HALF OF MY BRAIN WAS EATEN AWAY BY BUGS...
..
ZZ
ZZ
NN
I SAW...

THAT'S RIGHT! I HEARD BEFORE THAT THERE ARE WITCH DOCTORS IN THE WILD SOUTHERN LANDS
IF THE HALF OF HER BRAIN WAS EATEN AWAY,
AND SHE CAN STILL MOVE AND RUN SHE MUST EITHER BE CURSED OR A ZOMBIE.
CURSED PEOPLE CAN EAT AND SLEEP, AND MOVE AROUND FREELY!
THE NORTH SAYS THAT IF YOUR VOICE STARTS TO CHANGE, YOUR EYES BECOME BULGY, AND YOUR NAILS LONG AND SHARP,
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THIS.
YOU ARE TURNING INTO A LIVING CORPSE THAT FOLLOWS THE ORDERS OF THE ONE WHO PUT THE SPELL ON YOU!
I'm done for~~~~
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT UP THE TOPIC!
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO CHEER HER UP.

AND. THEN. WHAT?
I SAW MY MOTHER.
THEN WHAT DID YOU SEE?
THAT CAN'T BE! XIA KE, IF THESE REALLY WERE ILLUSIONS,
IT WAS ALL JUST ILLUSIONS, NO NEED TO GET TOO INTO IT!
THEN WHY DID YOUR CLOTHES CHANGE?
I DID TAKE A BATH AND CHANGE CLOTHES!
ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME?!
IS HE TRYING TO SAY THAT WE RAN INTO GHOSTS?

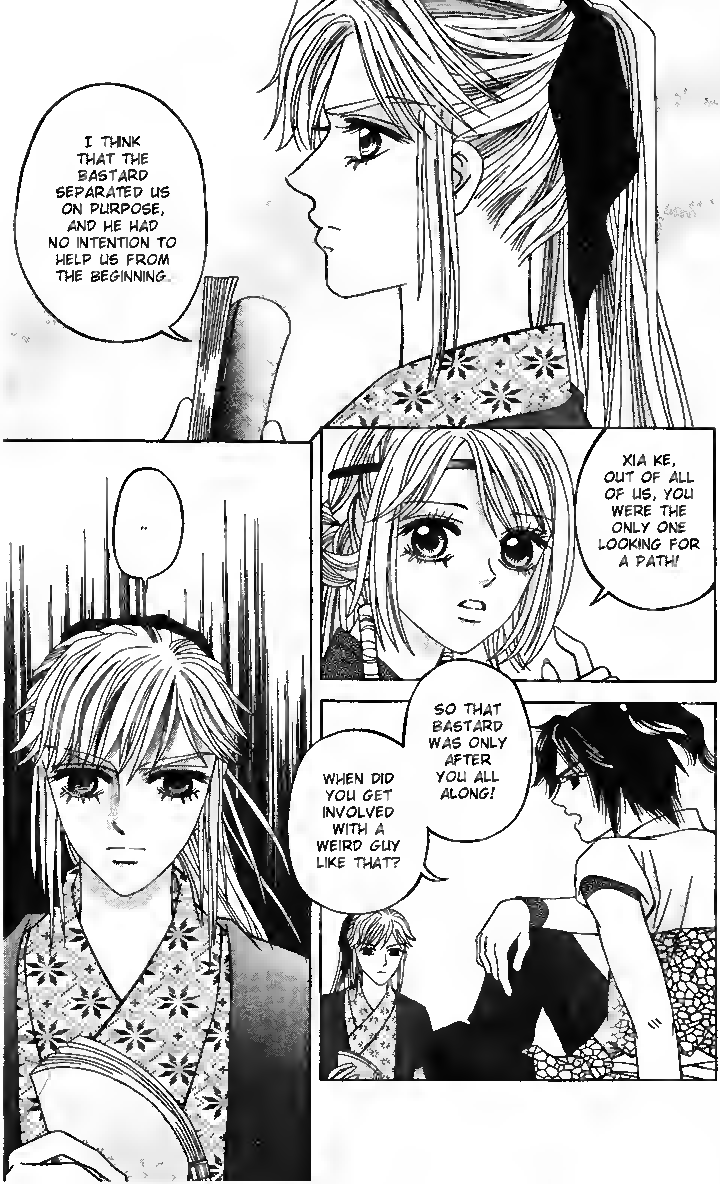
Master... Did you really run into a ghost?
I DON'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS!
EIGHTY PERCENT OF SUPER-NATURAL EVENTS CAN BE LOGICALLY EXPLAINED
MAYBE IT WASN'T ALL ILLU-SIONS
DURING THE TIME WHEN I TRIED TO USE MY SWORD TO KILL,
I SAW THE BASTARD THAT WAS STANDING ON THE ROCK IN THE FOREST!
I SAW THAT BASTARD TOO!

IF THAT'S IT THEN...
THAT BASTARD MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE US SEE PEOPLE THAT WE MISS..
PEOPLE WE MISS?
THAT MEANS THAT HE WAS TRYING TO TRAP US IN THE ILLUSION!
UNLESS WE REALIZED AND CAN FEEL OUR FEELINGS, OR ELSE...
IT WAS NOTED IN THE BOOK XIONG MING LU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ONES TRAPPED IN THE ILLUSION.
HE THOUGHT HE WAS WITH BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, EATING AND DRINKING LUXURIOUS FOOD.
BUT IN REALITY, FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVES, HE LOOKED LIKE A MADMAN.
HE WAS EATING GRASS AND MUD AS IF IT WAS A LUXURIOUS FEAST.
OR ELSE WHAT?

BUT THEN HOW WOULD PEOPLE BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT WE TRULY DESIRE INSIDE?
THAT IS THE ART OF ILLUSION!
THE ART OF ILLUSION IS...?
IT'S A SPECIAL TECHNIQUE WHERE A PERSON IS PUT INTO A DIFFERENT STATE OF MIND.
IT ORIGINATED IN THE NORTH, WHERE IT WAS COMMONLY USED IN HONG HING AND FUNG GU, WHERE THEY BELIEVE THAT IT ENLIGHTENED THEM.
HOWEVER, AFTER A FEW HUNDRED YEARS PASSED,
WHAT ORIGINALLY WAS USED FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION TURNED INTO SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR CURSES AND SPELLS
IT TURNED INTO SOMETHING THAT COULD TORTURE THE INNER SOUL OF BEINGS... THE ART OF ILLUSION!

IF WE THINK ABOUT IT MORE CAREFULLY, THAT GUY WAS WEARING SOME WEIRD CLOTHES..
. WHERE I'VE SEEN THEM SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
SIU TONG! GET ME LAST YEAR'S TRAVEL LOG NOW!
Yes!
MASTER! I FOUND IT!
THOSE CLOTHES HE WAS WEARING WERE..
HM..

HIS CLOTHES ARE FROM FUNG GU, USUALLY WORN DURING DU DA'S DANCE
WHAT KIND OF DANCE IS THAT?
Never heard of it before!
IT'S A DANCE TO "GATHER THE HOLY SPIRITS"
GATHER THE HOLY SPIRITS?
THIS IS GETTING MORE AND MORE CONFUSING!
FIRST, HE POINTS OUT A WAY TO GET OUT OF THE FOREST, THEN HE BRINGS US INTO A STATE OF ILLUSIONS,
AND HE ALSO WANTS US TO STAY IN THOSE ILLUSIONS FOREVER?


I THINK THAT THE BASTARD SEPARATED US ON PURPOSE, AND HE HAD NO INTENTION TO HELP US FROM THE BEGINNING.
XIA KE, OUT OF ALL OF US, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE LOOKING FOR A PATH!
SO THAT BASTARD WAS ONLY AFTER YOU ALL ALONG!
WHEN DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH A WEIRD GUY LIKE THAT?
..

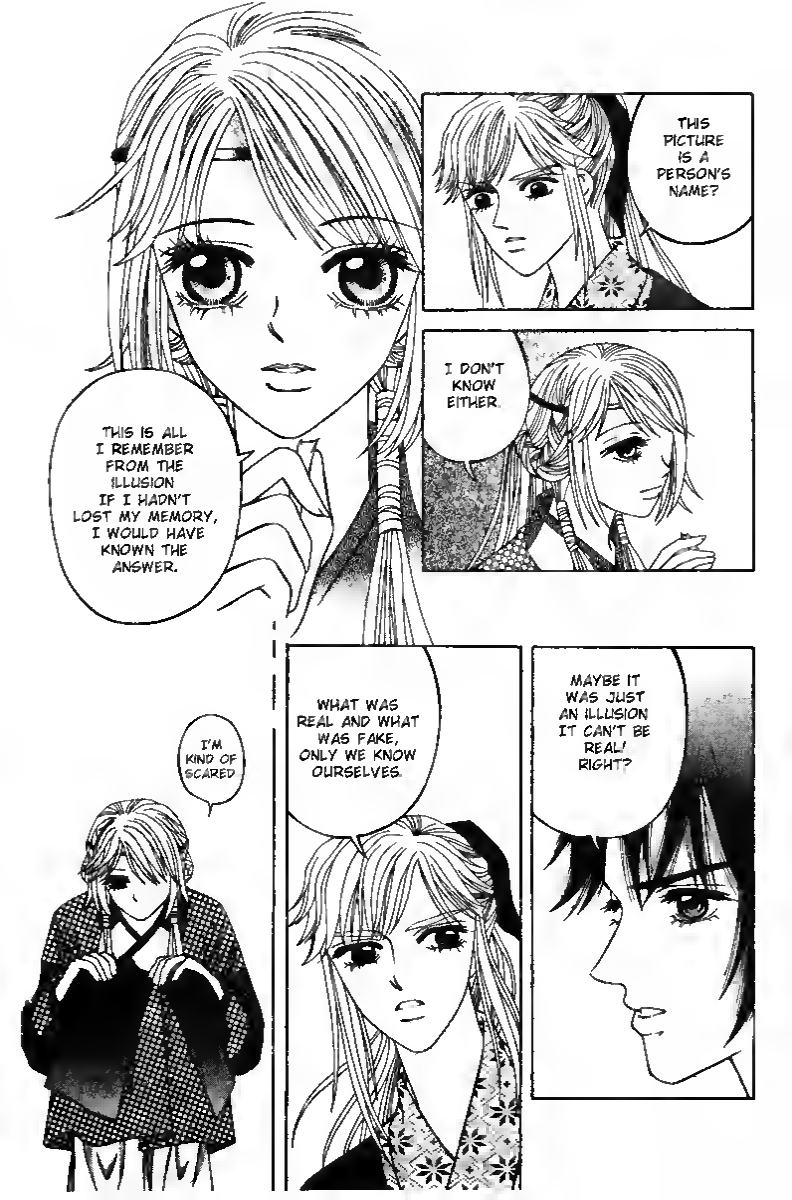
THEN WAS IT A GHOST?
NO. THAT PERSON WAS ALSO AN ILLUSION!
XIA KE, I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?
I ONLY SAID I DID, THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH GHOSTS OR DEMONS.
REMEMBER HOW WE WERE ALL CHASING HIM BUT IT SEEMED THAT WE COULD NEVER CATCH UP TO HIM?

THIS IS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE MING DYNASTY IN THE XU FAMILY NINE GENERATIONS AGO ONLY A MALE HEIR MAY INHERIT THIS
IN YOUR FATHER'S WILL, HE SAID THAT WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE SCROLL MUST BE KNOWN TO ONLY YOU
TAKE IT WITH YOU!
A FEW YEARS AGO, WHEN MY FATHER PASSED AWAY, MY MOTHER GAVE ME SOMETHING
BEHIND THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ANOTHER PERSON'S SHADOW!
WHATEVER HAPPENS IS FATE
YOU CAN GO ON WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT ME, AND FIND WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THE SCROLL.
WHAT'S WRITTEN IN THAT SCROLL?
DIDN'T I SAY SO CLEARLY? ONLY THE ELDEST HEIR TO THE XU FAMILY MAY KNOW THIS SECRET
IF WHAT WE THINK IS TRUE, THEN THAT PERSON IS TRYING TO STOP ME FROM FINDING THAT PLACE!
WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IS A PLACE WRITTEN IN THAT SCROLL

HM. SCROLL...
I THINK I REMEMBER SOMETHING!
WHEN I WAS IN THE ILLUSION, SOMEONE HANDED ME A SCROLL!
YAN YI,
OPEN AND READ IT!
YOU FINALLY REMEMBER?!

THE PERSON WRITTEN IN THE SCROLL...
THEY SAID...
MUST BE KILLED BY MY SWORD!
?!
It can't be me, right?
THAT PERSON... WHO IS HE?

SNAP!
MM...


THIS PICTURE IS A PERSON'S NAME?
I DON'T KNOW EITHER.
THIS IS ALL I REMEMBER FROM THE ILLUSION IF I HADN'T LOST MY MEMORY, I WOULD HAVE KNOWN THE ANSWER.
MAYBE IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION IT CAN'T BE REAL! RIGHT?
WHAT WAS REAL AND WHAT WAS FAKE, ONLY WE KNOW OURSELVES.
I'M KIND OF SCARED

WHAT KIND OF PERSON AM I REALLY?
A village girl who got her brain eaten by worms
Aren't you a village girl?
..WHILE LIU YAN WAS LOST IN THE ILLUSION, IT WASN'T ALL BAD.
YOU WERE ABLE TO REMEMBER A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF. I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE LONG BEFORE WE FIND OUT THE ANSWER!
IT LOOKS LIKE...
Celebrate! Celebrate!
You guys are so childish!
<<TO BE CONTINUED?>>

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID TOOLS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

Xia ke Xing

Volume 02 Chapter 08

Lacaille :SCANNER

Kio :TRANSLATOR

Kalli :PROOFREADER

[illegible]-chan, Pudding & Moonlight :EDITORS

craxx :QUALITY CHECK

[illegible] of the series that has a LOOOOOOOOOOONG history with me. OTL

– craxx

http://[illegible] irc // irchighway net/#aerandria